

Project ♥ Linus BLANKET BUZZ

MAKE A BLANKET DAY 2010 - A GREAT SUCCESS!!!

Our 8TH Make a Blanket Day was held on February 20th. It was a wonderful success with almost 100 people attending. We collected over 210 blankets and over 100 skeins of yarn.

Thanks to all who participated: the Girl Scout and Brownie Troops of Weehawken coordinated by Lynn Earle, the Blanketeers of St. Peter's Church – River Edge, Wallington Senior Center, Secaucus Senior Housing, the Church of the Redeemer – Morristown and the individuals who normally work at home, but came to help. I offer an extra special thanks to the Secaucus Blanketeers. Their dedication to making blankets and to helping with labeling, sorting and packing blankets not only on Make a Blanket Day but at every meeting is an incredible help in making the chapter such a success.

8 YEARS AND COUNTING

In June we celebrated our 8th Anniversary as a Project Linus Chapter. To date, we have donated **over 17,600 blankets**. **That's the equivalent of about 70,000 skeins of yarn!!!** If the average blanket is 45" long, our Chapter's blankets would stretch 66,000 feet. That's as tall as 53 Empire State Buildings or as long as 220 football fields!! These blankets have gone to seriously ill and abused children in hospitals and shelters, to the displaced children of the Haiti earthquake and Hurricane Katrina, and to the children of our fallen military personnel.

What a difference we make in the lives of children both locally and around the country.

Summer 2010

Hudson/Bergen Counties NJ Chapter Information

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Total Number of Blankets delivered
17,625

Visit our web site at:
<http://www.orgsites.com/nj/plhudsonbergen>

WAYS TO HELP

- ♥ Make a blanket out of acrylic yarn or washable fabric. It can be crocheted, knitted, quilted or fleece.

SIZES (measurements are approximate)

Newborn: 30" x 36"
Young Child: 36" x 40" or 40" x 40"
Older Child: 40" x 60" or "45" x 70"

- ♥ Donate materials such as yarn, fabric or batting. A.C. Moore, Michael's, JoAnn's, Staples or Wal-Mart gift cards are also welcome.
- ♥ Donate supplies: postage stamps, cardstock, paper, envelopes, etc.

SECAUCUS BLANKETEER MEETINGS

Afternoons: The first and third Wednesday of each month from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. at The Church of Our Saviour, 191 Flanagan Way, Secaucus
The second, third and fourth Thursday of each month from 12:30 to 2:30 at the Secaucus Senior Center, 101 Centre Street

Evening: The second Wednesday of each month from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Secaucus Public Library, 1379 Paterson Plank Road

Everyone welcome



HAITI RELIEF

As you all know, a devastating earthquake hit Haiti on January 12 this year. Over 3 million people were affected and needed assistance. As we always do when tragedy hits, Project Linus Coordinators asked if we could provide blankets for the injured and displaced children. Initially the answer was no, they needed too many other things more severely, like food, water and medicines.

But soon the requests came in. Headquarters sent out the call for blankets. Overall between 25,000 and 30,000 blankets were collected by our coordinators and sent to a number of relief organizations providing aid to Haiti. I was able to take 115 blankets from our stash and send them to help provide comfort to the children who were so severely impacted by this terrible tragedy.



FALLEN HEROES

The Transition Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) is a non-profit Veteran Service Organization offering hope, healing, comfort and care to thousands of American armed forces families facing the death of a loved one. Each year over Memorial Day weekend, TAPS runs a Good Grief Camp for children of military personnel who have died. This year our Chapter donated over 30 blankets to the children attending the camp.

STORIES AND THANK YOUs

♥♥♥ “On Christmas Eve at Englewood Hospital, I gave birth to the best Christmas present ever, my first child, my son, Sean Thomas. Unfortunately, during labor I ran a fever and in return, Sean was also born with a fever. On Christmas day, at around five in the evening, Sean was taken from me and brought to the NICU. The culture they had taken after his birth came back positive for a bacteria. It was by far one of the worst and scariest moments of my life, and he ended up in the NICU for a total of ten days, the longest ten days of my life. After they took Sean for further tests, they told me I could come down to see him. As I walked through the door, I laid eyes on my beautiful baby boy sleeping soundly in his crib. Seany was covered by a bright, cheery, colorful blanket keeping him safe and warm. After speaking to the nurses about his situation, they explained to me what the blanket was about and it literally brought tears to my eyes. His blanket was with him throughout his stay in the hospital. It has also been with him everyday since, as he dreams in his bassinet, sees the world from his car

seat, snuggles with mommy and daddy on the couch, and so many other journeys he has been on since he was born.

Until this happened to me, I was unaware of Project Linus. I just wanted to write this email to express my gratitude for what you do. Going through what we did, the blanket gave me a sense of peace during a very difficult time. It's truly heartwarming to know that there are people in our world who care about sick babies who are genuinely suffering. For this I am very grateful. It was very touching to look around the NICU and see other babies who were also sick covered with blankets of love. Project Linus is an absolutely beautiful venture. I look forward to the future when I can explain the significance of Sean's blanket to him and tell him just how special it really is. It means the world to me, as his mother, to know that when someone created this beautiful blanket, they really made it with the hopes of making a sick child feel better, that child just so happened to be mine. It is a very special blanket and one that I will treasure with Sean for the rest of his life.”



♥♥♥ “My 8 month old daughter spent 5 days in Hackensack hospital last week with RSV and pneumonia in both lungs. After her first long night, someone gave us a blanket from Project Linus. I'm sure I said 'thank you' when it was given (although was in a fog) but I didn't realize then how much this blanket would help Sami. With the machines beeping, the IV, the oxygen, and the strange environment, Sami was able to have something soft and special to lay with at night. She grabbed the blanket and slept with it for days. So thank you so much for this wonderful gift, it helped us both get through!”

♥♥♥ *“How surprised I was to come back into Abigail’s hospital room and discover such a colorful, handmade with love and care, blanket that she was able to cling to while recovering from her surgery and pain. Someone had put time, thought into making something special, one of a kind, for my daughter. She is bonded to this beautiful, cozy colorful creation. I don’t know how to say “thank you”. It created an impression on both of us...I will keep this and remember all the care and kindness we received at Hackensack Hospital from complete strangers working together with one goal: Help their patients and patient’s families heal and recover and cope with a heartfelt situation. Thank you!”*

♥♥♥ *“Many thanks for helping to make life a bit brighter for children entering shelters and foster care without any personal possessions. Your recent gift of blankets will help the My Stuff Bags Foundation give these children new belongings, comfort and hope, through the gift of a My Stuff Bag.*

It’s very sad that each year over 300,000 children nationwide must be rescued from terrible abuse and neglect, and often enter foster care without even the most basic childhood necessities. They desperately need such simple things as a stuffed animal, a warm blanket, and most importantly, the love that so many other lucky children enjoy.

Your gift will help show many children that they have not been forgotten, and that lots of people (like you!) do care...Thank you again for your generosity and compassion for these most vulnerable young ones. You are truly making an impact in their lives.

Janeen Holmes, President/CEO
My Stuff Bags Foundation

THANKS TO OUR BLANKETEERS AND SUPPORTERS

Thank you so much to UPS and the UPS Foundation for their two recent generous donations: \$350 in November of 2009 and \$500 just a few weeks ago. Thanks also to Joan Gasser, the UPS employee who submitted the request for the donation. The money will buy much yarn, fabric and fleece to make blankets for the children.

Thank you to the Church of Our Saviour for allowing us to hold our Wednesday afternoon meetings in their meeting room. Thanks also to the Secaucus Public Library for the use of their facilities for Make a Blanket Day and our evening meetings and for being a drop-off location.

A special thank you to those who help me regularly by delivering to some of our recipients, picking up blankets from various people or being drop-off points for blankets

and other donations: Beth Bogdanowicz, Joan Gasser, Joyce Geils, Cathy Haag, Carol Schultz, and the Christine Lilore Law Offices in Wyckoff, NJ.

Thank you also to all the ladies who help me sew labels on blankets at the meetings of the Secaucus Blanketeers.

Thank you to the following groups for the wonderful blankets and supplies they have donated to our Chapter **over the last several months:**

- Secaucus Blanketeers
- Blanketeers of Secaucus Senior Housing
- First Presbyterian Church Blanketeers, Elmwood Park
- Warren Point Presbyterian Church Blanketeers, Fair Lawn
- Need-L-Wits of Elmwood Park
- Ladies of Wallington Senior Center
- Washington Grand Hookers
- Ladies of SunRise Senior Living in Cresskill
- Ladies of St. Peter the Apostle Church in River Edge
- “Peace through Knits and Purls of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Dumont
- Blanketeers of Fewsmith Memorial Presbyterian Church
- Serendipity Stitchers of the Church of the Redeemer, Morristown, NJ.
- Mackenzie Miller, Girl Scout and Friend of Project Linus for making blankets and for spreading the word about Project Linus to her family, friends, classmates and fellow girl scouts.
- Girl Scout Troops 12779 & 12933 for bringing yarn and fleece blankets and for their tireless efforts on Make a Blanket Day.

And, thanks to all the individuals who create wonderful blankets at home and donate them for the benefit of the children.

With so many groups working so hard for Project Linus, I hope I have recognized you all. If not, I apologize. Know that your efforts are very much appreciated.



The Perfect COVER-UP

Reprinted from Better Homes & Gardens, January 2004

The mercury dips, the wind howls, and a chill creeps across the floor. Furnaces rattle, radiators roil. We curl our feet up into the chair, settle a cup of hot tea on the table and reach for an old friend -- our blanket.

Like guardian angels, they perch on the foot of the bed, the back of the sofa, the top shelf of the linen closet -- ready to still the shivering and to rout the draft. But blankets mean more than an extra layer on a cold night, so much more, in fact, that words sometimes fail us.

Which is strange, considering how many words we have for them: afghans, throws, quilts, cover-ups, wraps. As swaddling, a blanket is the first cloth to touch infant skin, protecting the newborn from a cold, harsh world. No doubt some vestige of that memory remains, so that even as children grow, they still tightly clutch the official security device of the toddler years -- the ubiquitous "blankie." Little wonder that we know them by yet another name: comforters.

The truth is, we never really forget the feeling of comfort that old security blanket gave us against our fears, real and imagined. And now, even when fright gives way to fun, blankets still have their place. Too cold to play outside? A blanket and some chairs are all that's needed to create an impregnable fort. Too nice to stay in? Throw that throw in the trunk along with a packed picnic basket, and voila! -- instant movable feast.

The best blanket, from the thinnest throw to the downiest comforter, gives off no real heat of its own, but magnifies the radiance of those wrapped in it, nurturing a warmth that comes from within.

Project Linus

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